



The Literacy and Language Center Inc.

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Tips for Reading with Your Child

When students are reading well, they engage in a metacognitive process of 'concept imagery', or the ability to make mental images that match the content they read.

When done effectively, the rate at which a student reads the words (fluency) and visualizes the words (concept imagery) match. Many students, though, cannot visualize at their reading fluency rate. Here are some *tips* that can reinforce this process at home.

- **Have your child read out loud.** Wait for the child to finish the sentence that they are reading before making any corrections.
- **Encourage independence.** If there was an error, at the end of a sentence ask, "Did that make sense?". This gives them a chance to make a correction *independently*.
- **Make predictions.** Before turning the page, from time to time ask, "What do you think is going to happen next?". This isn't about getting a correct answer, but fostering the curiosity and wonder that requires critical thinking skills. *There are no wrong answers!*
- **Talk about their pictures.** Take breaks from reading to ask the child what they "picture", or what characters or scenes *look like* to them.
- **Share your pictures.** Describe what *your* imagery looks like. The point here is to model the fact that we all make pictures in our mind and that they can look different, but should match the information that was in the story. Most stories don't describe every detail, especially for characters and backgrounds. It's alright for imagery to differ.
- **Pay attention to context.** Many students have a greater challenge with creating a setting or an appropriate background in concept imagery than a basic image for a main character. Why does this matter? The context that a student chooses is often important in making inferences, connecting to the story personally, and retaining information.
- **Go to the library as a family.**
- **Read together!** This is a great time to bond at the beginning or end of the day.
- **Have Family Reading Time.** Encourage all members of the family to pick up a book and read by themselves. This models the love of reading!